

Kitsuzen Manga

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A  TOKYOPOP Manga

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PIRIST

VOLUME 10

BY
MIN-WOO HYUNG

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THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

During the war against Lucifer, the archangel Temozarella led the agents of light. In the years that followed, Temozarella watched as God's attention shifted from his seraphim to his new creation—man. Jealousy caused Temozarella and his disciples to abandon their heavenly post and attempt to corrupt humanity to prove the superiority of the seraphim to God. During the Crusades he attempted to begin his plan, but Belial sealed him in the Domas Porada for 500 years. Now, released by Ivan Isaacs, Temozarella is free again, but too weak to carry out his dark designs. His disciples have begun to sanctify the ground in the American West, spreading plague and death in preparation for the Unholy Sabbath.

TEMOZARELLA

Ivan Isaacs was a young priest with a passion for ancient cultures when he was recruited to study the Domas Porada. Little did he know that this mission would be his last—at least his last in life. After helping revive an ancient battle for Heaven and Earth, Ivan and his beloved Gena were slain. In order to get revenge and atone for endangering the world, Ivan made a pact with the devil Belial: his soul in exchange for a second chance at life...and superhuman strength. Now Ivan wanders the old west, hunting down Temozarella's disciples and keeping a journal of his tragic tale.

Gena Isaacs was an only child, so her father Jacob adopted Ivan to keep her company. In time the two developed a mutual love that went beyond sibling affection, much to their father's dismay. Jacob sent Ivan to seminary, but the young would-be lovers' feelings remained. Before Ivan could act on his feelings, Gena was captured and killed by agents of Temozarella.

GENA
ISAACS

FATHER IVAN ISAACS

Coburn's Posse

Father
Lucian

Cairo

With the West filled with outlaws, corrupt lawmen and superstitious townsfolk, these companions are the only ones Coburn trusts. Father Lucian is a vatican envoy sent to investigate what happened at Stonetale Abbey. Nowic is a Civil War veteran and mute who aids Coburn with his heavy gatling gun. Cairo is an old friend of Coburn's who throws his knives with deadly accuracy.

Lizzie inherited leadership of the Angel Gang from her father. She's loved by her men, and feared by everyone else. She has more of a conscience than some of her fellow outlaws, but her hands are not clean of blood. Her rational world was shattered when her path crossed that of Ivan Isaacs. Now trouble seems to be her only friend. A hanging, a lynching, even a zombie curse—she just can't seem to get a break these days. During the St. Baldias massacre, she was bitten by one of Temozarella's zombies and her blood now bears his curse.

LIZZIE

The devil Belial makes Ivan his agent in the mortal world so that he may battle the agents of the fallen Arch-Angel Temozarella, who is planning an upheaval of Heaven and Hell. Belial used to be Bethel, a Catholic priest in the Middle Ages when he was a prosecutor in trials of heresy. After Temozarella shattered his faith, Bethel turned himself into the demon Belial in order to get his revenge.

BELIAL

Coburn is the only federal marshal investigating possible links between an outbreak of plague and other mysterious events happening around the Old West. After Lizzie is found to be the only survivor of the St. Baldias massacre, Coburn takes her into custody. Together they follow Ivan Isaacs, the only one who knows the truth about what's going on.

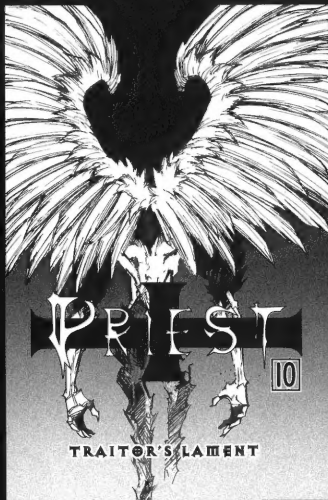
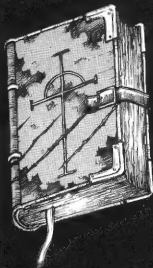
COBURN

THE STORY SO FAR...

Ivan's journey of revenge has led him to the fortress of Achmode, one of Temozarella's fallen angels. During his centuries of exile, Achmode has turned his palace into a twisted mockery of heaven, complete with angels of his own design. After battling his way through the unheavenly host, Ivan reached their master.

Meanwhile, Coburn, a federal marshal, is hot on Ivan's trail. An unexplained series of incidents has left several frontier towns ravaged, and a mysterious "plague" has created widespread panic in the West. Now that earthly explanations have failed him, only the pale-faced Priest can help. Coburn and his posse were last seen crossing the desert en route to Bosack.

Now let us watch as two great men cross swords with the forces of darkness, and cross paths with each other at long last.









NOT REALLY.



BUT I FIND CON-
SOLATION IN THE
STRENGTH OF
MEN'S WORDS.



AMEN.



HOW
RECK-
LESS OF
YOU
IVAN!

TO
IMAGINE
THAT YOUR
HUMAN
FIREARMS
COULD
HARM ME!



AND NOT
RECKLESS

YOU ARE NO
LONGER A
CREATURE OF
GOD YOU MUST
BE MORTAL



CLICK!!



CLICK!!

CLICK!!

CLICK!!



!!

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
IVAN. I AM
NO LONGER
A CREATURE
OF GOD

BUT PLAYING
WITH THINGS
YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
IS EVEN MORE
RECKLESS!



!!

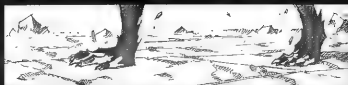
AAARGH!



AAAARGH!



SLURP!



YOUR PAIN
WILL BE MY
REWARD FOR
ALL THOSE
YEARS OF
WAITING.

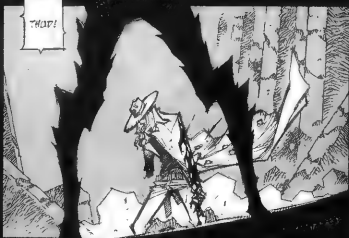


BIWA HA HA





TAK!!



WAT!

GET UP,
IVAN.

MY WAIT HAS
BEEN TOO
LONG FOR
SO SHORT A
PLEASURE!



PICCE

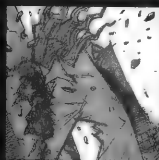
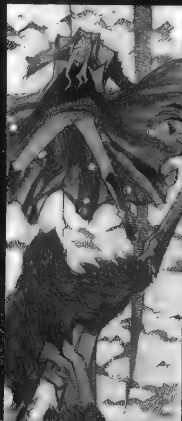


OPEN YOUR EYES AND SHOW
ME THAT YOU'RE WORTH
MY TIME.



YOUR
SILENCE

...ONLY
FUELS MY
RAGE





I DON'T
KNOW
WHY...

BUT LORD
TEMORAZELA
DOESN'T
GRANT ME
PROMOTIONS
ABOUT YOU

WHY?

IS IT
BECAUSE
YOU ARE
NOTHING
BUT THE
FLESH

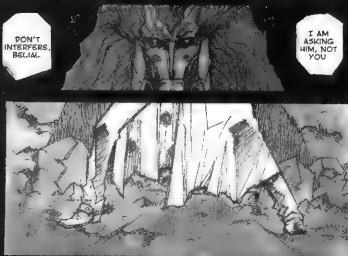
...FOR
BEJIAL'S
SOUL?

NO, IT CAN'T BE.
THE SCENT OF
YOUR BLOOD IS
TOO STRONG FOR
THAT.



TODAY,
BEFORE
SHREDDING
YOUR FLESH
TO STRIPS...

...I WILL HEAR
THE SECRET
HIDDEN WITHIN
YOU--THE
REASON FOR
MY LONG
YEARS OF
WAITING!



DON'T
INTERFERE,
BEJIAL.

I AM
ASKING
HIM, NOT
YOU

IS IT YOU WHO
SHOULD FEAR
RAGE...

DIDN'T I
TELL YOU...

HA HA HE
RAGE HA HA
MOVES HIM TO
ACTION IS NOT
JUST HIS OWN

OH, AT
LAST.

YOU REVEAL
YOUR
HATRED,
YOUR WRATH
AND CON-
TEMPT!!

LOOK BEFORE
YOU, IVAN....

HE'S ONE OF
THEM

ONE OF THEM
WHO TOOK
EVERYTHING
FROM YOU

...BEFORE
YOU COULD
REPENT OF
YOUR
MISTAKE.



CLASH



THOSE
EYES...

THAT
BEASTLY
LIGHT...

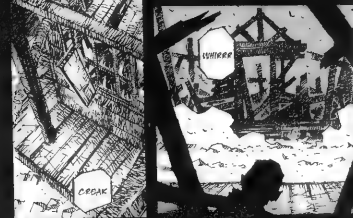
YOU
ARE NOT
UNLIKE ...

...WHAT
WE ONCE
WERE!

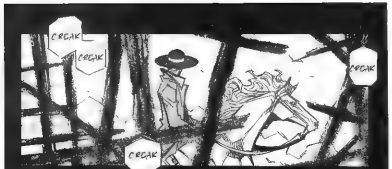
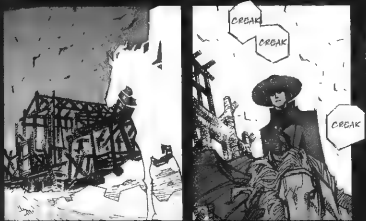
ON THE
BRINK OF MY
ESCAPE FROM
CENTURES OF
ENNU...

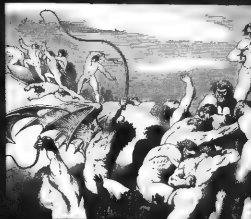


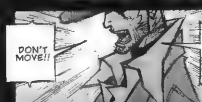
...I TREMBLE WITH
ANTICIPATION!

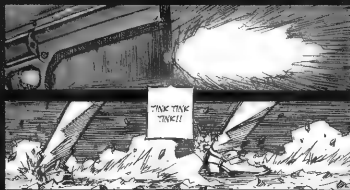
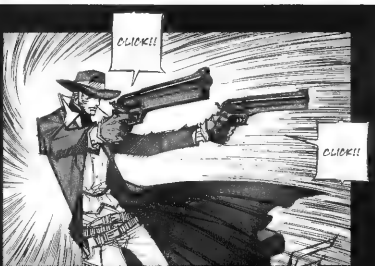






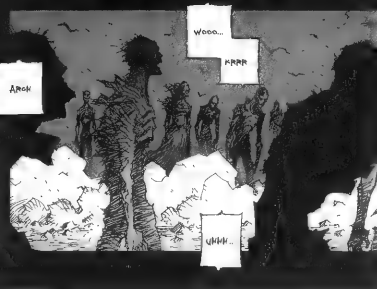




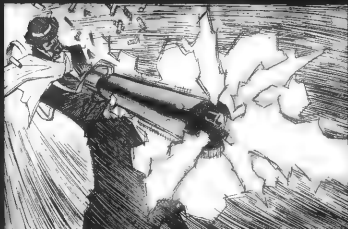














LIZZIE!

RUN!!



IT'S NO
USE!

HURRY!
RUN!!



UGH!!



ARRGH!!



KEEEAH!

AAAGH!

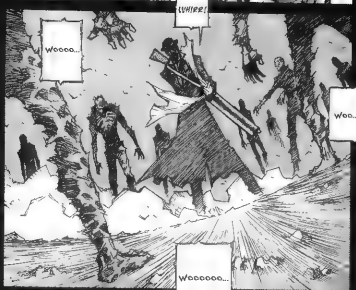
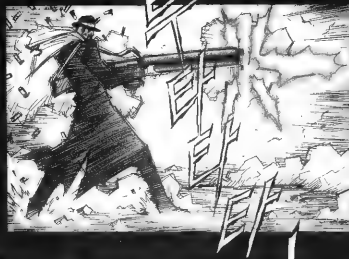
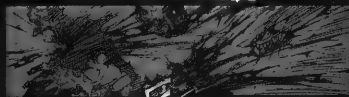
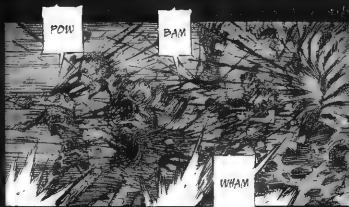
KYAAAA!

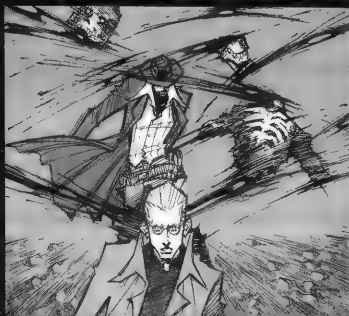
WAAAA!
STOP!

AAAAGH!

STOP!

STOP!







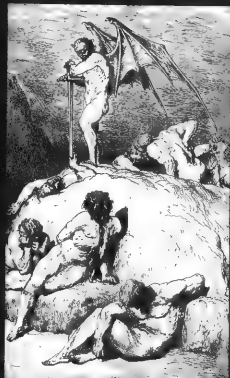


HE'S...
HE'S
HERE!

I CAN
HEAR...

...HE
SCREAMS











...THE ECSTASY OF PAIN!







YOUR
BLOOD...



...IVAN.



CLANG!!



OOOH....

DON'T
TELL ME
IT'S
ALREADY
OVER,
IVAN!!

FROM TEMPEST
ALL FORGIVE ME FOR
FREQUENTING THIS
PLACE







PRESENTLY, I'M
NO MORE THAN
YOUR SHADOW.



AS LONG AS I AM
IN THIS STATE I
CANNOT GRANT
YOU THAT POWER.

I WOULD HAVE GRANTED
YOU ALL OF MY POWER
WHEN I SAVED YOU
FROM THE CROSS.

BUT YOU RESISTED.
REFUSED TO GRANT
ME YOUR SOUL.

I'M WAITING FOR
YOU TO REGRET
THAT DECISION.



AND YOUR
PAIN WILL
CEASE.



...AND EVERYONE
WILL KNOW YOUR
WRATH AND SUFFER
ACCORDINGLY.

EVEN NOW + HIS
FALLEN CREATURE
CELEBRATES
YOUR DEATH

SO
THAT'S
IT...

THAT'S THE
REASON
FOR YOUR
EXISTENCE,
IVAN.

WHAT ARE
YOU
WAITING
FOR, IVAN?

BU+ IT+ IS+ NO+
+OO+ LATE+ +O
+URN+ THE+ +IDE

YOU
CANNOT+
DEFEAT+
ACHMED

WILL YOU JUST LIE
+ HERE AND WATCH
HIM + TRIUMPH?

EVER DIE!

I'LL PUNISH
+ THOSE WHO
MOCK YOUR
WEAKNESS!

SHUT
UP!



CLASH!

HMMM?

IVAN...

IS THIS
YOUR FINAL
STAND?
THE LAST
EXPRESSION
OF YOUR
WILL?

THE BLOOD
FLOWING OUT
OF ME

IS ALL
MINE

MY BLOOD,
MY FIGHT

MY WILL

EVEN IF
THIS BODY
IS TORN TO
PIECES,

IT BELONGS
TO NO ONE
ELSE BUT ME!

EVEN IF YOU
PROMISE ME
THE POWER
OF GOD HIM-
SELF

YOU CANNOT
ROB ME OF
MY SOUL!

I WILL KILL
TEMÖZARELA AND HIS
DISCIPLES WITH MY
OWN HANDS OR
I WILL DIE TRYING



WHY, IVAN?

TO TRAP LORD
TEMÖZARELA I
SACRIFICED MY
OWN SOUL.



IT IS HE ONLY
WAY TO FIGHT
+ THEM.





...WHEN
EVEN GOD...

...TURNED
HIS BACK
ON US?



EVEN NOW GOD
SITS ON HIS THRONE...

...AND LAUGHS AT
YOUR SUFFERING.



MAKE YOUR
DECISION,
BELIAL.

WILL YOU
PERISH
ALONG
WITH
IVAN'S
FLESH..

OR WILL
YOU TAKE
YOUR
PLACE IN
THE
CIRCLE...

...AND
RESTORE OUR
LORD'S GLORY
AS ONE OF HIS
CHOSEN
PRIESTS?

YOU ARE SO
SIMPLE-MINDED.
ACHMODE YES,
THOUGH THE ORIGIN
OF MY EXISTENCE
DIFFERS FROM
YOURS...

...I TOO HAVE
BEEN CHOSEN.
LIKE YOU.

BUT UNLIKE
YOU I USED MY
POWER FOR MY
OWN WILL

AND IMPRISONED
YOUR LORD, WHO
WOULD USE ME

HOW IRONIC
THAT THE
BODY THAT
SHOULD HAVE
SUPPORTED
ME...

HAH!

...DENIES MY
FULL CONTROL.
EVEN WHEN
ALL OTHER
HOPE IS LOST

IS THIS THE
END OF OUR
JOURNEY?

IVAN'S WEARY
SOUL HAS NO
STRENGTH
LEFT TO
OPPOSE YOU

HE MAY
NEVER HAVE
HAD IT.

IF OUR PILGRIMAGE
IS DESTINED
TO END HERE...

...DO NOT DELAY
IT WITH HIS
CONTINUOUS
HARRYING. ACHMOTH!



SO, THE
DEFIANT
BELIAL HAS
AT LAST
GIVEN UP?



IT'LL BE MY
PLEASURE
TO FEAST
ON THE
FLESH OF
THIS
HERETIC

THE CIRCLE OF
THE UNLUCKY
SABBATH!



MAY THE
BLESSING
OF LORD
TEMOZARELA
RAIN ON YOU
FOR ETERNITY!!





SO UTTERLY.
POWERLESS.

I GAVE UP MY
HUMANITY TO
DENY DEATH'S GRIP



SO WHY DO
I CRAVE



DEATH'S
ETERNAL
REST NOW?





NOT YET, IVAN!



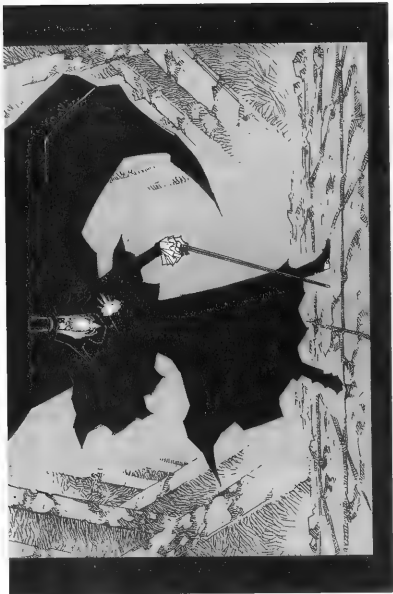
YOU CAN'T



GO TO HELL

YOUR JOURNEY
IS NOT OVER!











Y...YOU?!

WHY

WHY...WHY...
...?!

HE HAS
COMMANDED
ME...

HE WISHES
THEM TO
CONTINUE
THEIR PIL-
GRIMAGE!

TO PUT AN
END TO YOUR
ARROGANCE
THAT THREAT-
ENS THE
FUTURE OF THE
SANCTUARY!



I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!!

THE
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS I
SPENT
WAITING.

WHO DO
YOU THINK
THEY
WERE
FOR?

FOR YOUR
PAST
GLORY,
I'M SURE.

IT IS FOR
HIM THAT I
STRUGGLE!

ONE ONLY
NEED LOOK
AT THE WINGS
OF ARRO-
GANCE ON
YOUR BACK.

WHY
WOULD
HE .

WINGS HE
WAS NEVER
PERMITTED
YOU!!

....!

CLOMP!

CLOMP

GRAB

MY
ARROGANCE?

WHAT DOES
LORD
TEMOZARELA
COMMAND.

...AS PUNISHMENT
FOR THEIR
ARROGANCE?



THEY
EXIST
BECAUSE...







ACHMODE...

...MY POOR
ANGEL...



HEAR THE
WORDS OF
YOUR LORD!!!





TEMOZARELA,
MY LORD!



I FOLLOWED
YOU INTO
EXILE.



I SPENT
CENTURIES
WAITING...

HOW CAN
YOU
FORSAKE
ME NOW?

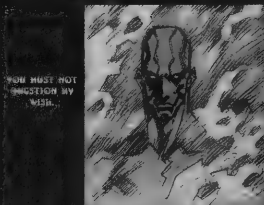


ALMOST

I DID, NOT, DOUBT
YOUR DEVOTION
TO ME.



BUT DID I NOT
TELL YOU?



YOU MUST NOT
QUESTION MY
WISH.

I WILL NOT
BROOK ANY
ACT THAT
CHALLENGES
MY WILL.



IF YOU
ABANDON ME
TOO, WHAT
WILL BECOME
OF ME FOR
REBELLING
AGAINST
GOD?



THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
DESPAIR THAT AWAITS GOD--
THAT IS YOUR
COMPENSATION.



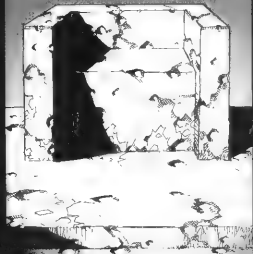
YOUR SOUL MUST BE
SACRIFICED IN
PREPARATION FOR
THAT DAY.

THIS IS THE FINAL
BLESSING I BESTOW
UPON YOU, ALTHOUGH.





AND PRAY FOR
THAT DAY WHEN
TEARS OF BLOOD
WILL OVERFLOW
THIS LAND...



IF MAN COULD
HEAR GOD'S
VOICE... EVEN
ONCE... HE WOULD
KNOW WHAT
HOLINESS IS.



FROM THE
MOMENT HE
CAME INTO
BEING, WE
WERE IN THE
PRESENCE OF
THAT VOICE

AT TIMES
GENTLE, AT
TIMES FULL
WRATH...



THE DAY HE
BESTOWED
WINGS UPON
ME...

I SOARED TO
THE ENDS OF
THE UNIVERSE
LIKE A
DELIGHTED
CHILD.





AS SOON
AS WE
CAME TO
BE

...HE TOLD
US OF HIS
CREATIONS
PAST AND
FUTURE...



HE WERE IN
HIS FULL
CONFIDENCE

WE HAD NO
NEED OF
QUESTIONS

FROM THE
MOST TRIVIAL
LIFE FORMS TO
THE DIVINE
HOST.



BUT NOW I
QUESTION
EVERYTHING.
ALL THAT HAS
BREATH IN
THE UNIVERSE

SOMETIMES
I EVEN
WONDER IF
HIS VOICE
EXISTED AT
ALL.



DOES HIS
VOICE...

...REACH
YOU?





I
THOUGHT
MY LORD
TOO, WAITED
FOR

...THE
RETURN
OF
GOD'S
GRACE'



POOR
FOOLISH
ACHMODE



FOR ALL THOSE
INTERMINABLE
YEARS

...YOU
WAITED,
DREAMING
YOUR SAD
DREAM





BUT LORD
TEMOFARSLA
COMMANDED
ME TO GIVE
YOU THIS
MESSAGE

HE DOES NOT
RESENT YOUR
FOOLISH
YEARNING FOR
THE FAST
GLORY OF
HEAVEN



GO, IVAN

YOU'RE NOT
THE FEAST
SET ASIDE
FOR ME
TODAY.



IT'S NOT
TIME FOR
YOUR EXIT.



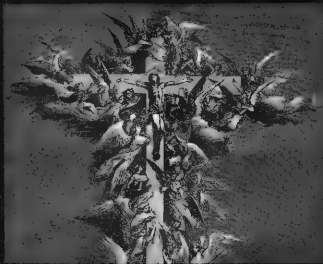
YOUR
HATRED
MUST BURN
FIERCER.



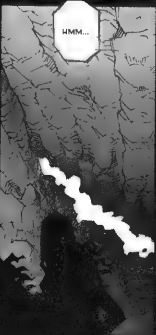
BY TAKING
THIS, HE'LL
GAIN THE
POWER...



COMMENSURATE
TO THE
COMBINED
WRATH OF BOTH
YOUR SOULS.

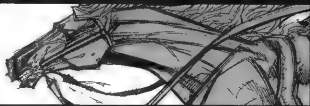


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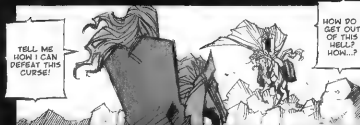


HUP!









DON +
EXPEC +
ANY
ANSWERS

...FROM US

HE AND I...
OUR VERY
EXISTENCE IS
A QUESTION.

...THAT AWAITS.
GOD'S ANSWER.

YOU...

I AM
MERELY
STANDING
IN...

...FOR HIS
TRAVEL-
WEARY
SOUL.

UNFORTUNATELY
THIS IS NOT A
PERMANENT
STATE OF
AFFAIRS

YOU'RE
NOT HIM!

BUT
HIS BODY
CANNOT
BELONG
TO IVAN
FOREVER.

NOTHING IS
ETERNAL...

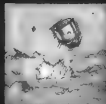
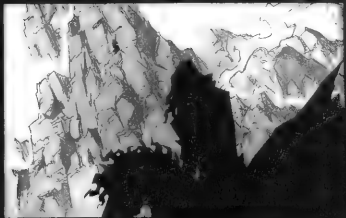
NOT EVEN
GOD'S
LOVE...

...OR THE
SONG OF
THE
ANGELS.

AND
WHATEVER
PERISHES...

ULTIMATELY
REGETS
WRATH.





THESE
WEAPONS
OF MEN...

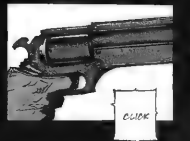


...CAN
ONLY
AFFECT
MEN.



BLESSED BY
DARKNESS...

...IVAN HAS
LEFT BEHIND
HIS DAYS AS A
HUMAN BEING.





GODDAMN!

THIS CASE
IS DRIVING
ME CRAZY

OKAY CAN
SOMEBODY
PLEASE

...EXPLAIN
TO ME WHO
THAT MAN
OVER
THERE IS?

FUING

BE...
BETHEAL...

BETHEAL
GAVAREL
THE
INQUISITOR
FOR

THE HOLY
ORDER OF
COLLABORERS,
PERSECUTORS
OF HERETICS
IN THE 19TH
CENTURY

IT'S
HIM...

...RIGHT?

ALL I SAW
WAS THE
SHADOW
BEHIND
IVAN'S
BODY...

WHISPERING
TO HIM

BUT I'M
SURE HE'S
THE ONE YOU
SPEAK OF

YET HE'S
SOMEHOW
DIFFERENT
MORE
POWERFUL
THAN ANY
MAN.

IS HE STILL
CONTINUING HIS
AGE-OLD
STRUGGLE
AGAINST
YEMOZARELA?

HOW CAN
THIS BE?

WHAT I
DO COULD
BE DONE.



...BY ANY
CREATURE
OF GOD

CLANG

DRIP

DRIP

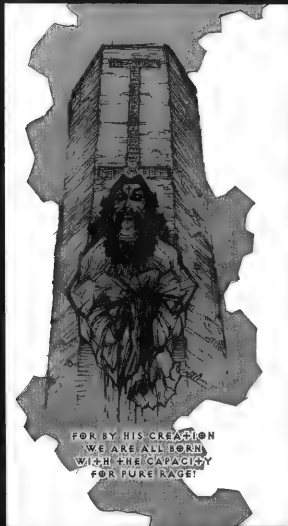
DRIP

DRIP

KRARR

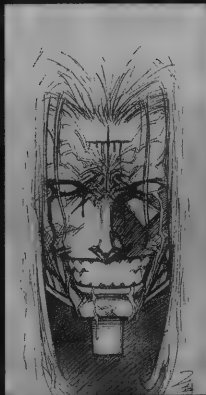
ARRGH.

ARRGH

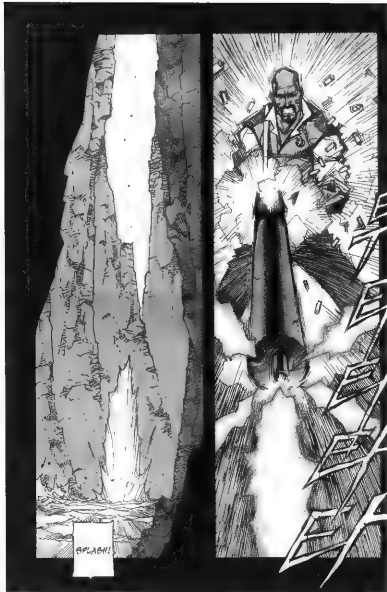
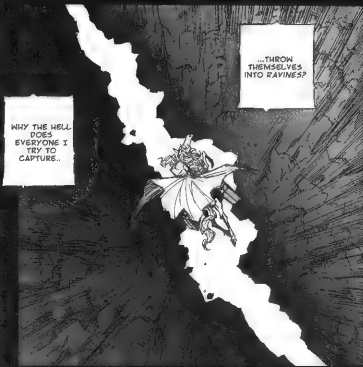


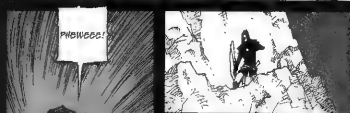
FOR BY HIS CREATION
WE ARE ALL BORN
WITH THE CAPACITY
FOR PURE RAGE!











ON
SECOND
THOUGHT

IT'S SHEER
SUICIDE TO
JUMP FROM
THIS HEIGHT

AH, WELL. FOR
ONCE, YOU
MIGHT BE
RIGHT,
FATHER



NOOOOIGH!!

LIZZIE!





WHAT AM I
DOING?



HE WON'T GIVE
ME ANY ANSWERS
ANYWAY...



I'D RATHER...



RATHER...

...JUST...!



TO BE CONTINUED...

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